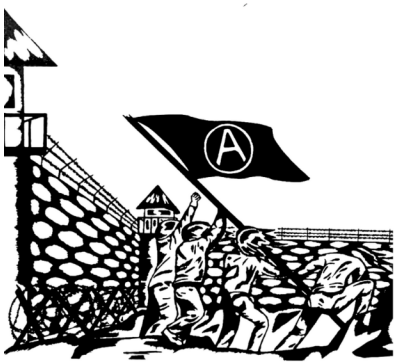
running down the walls

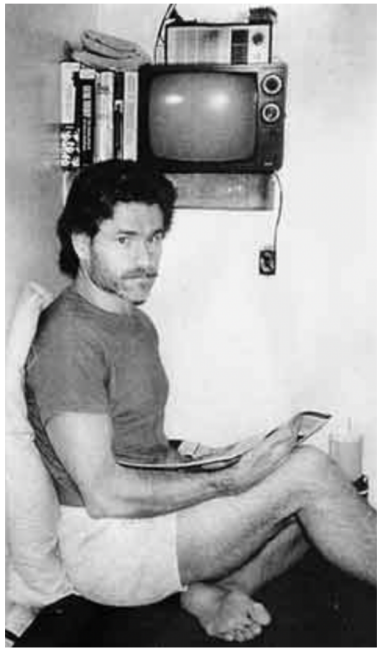
2025 statements

with whatever weapons at hand



Bill Dunne

Salutations and felicitations to all of my Running Down the Walls Comrades!



Yet again we have travelled another circuit of the seasons and come to the time and place for another operation of what has become an institution outside of the barricade: the Running Down the Walls run/walk/roll in support of fewer walls and cages and greater freedom and community. The need for our side of the barricade to come together to do as much as possible is becoming ever more acute.

The forces pillage and plunder are raising an increasingly dark social storm cloud that segregates the human family into inherently different and necessarily competitive groups surrounded by both physical and cultural walls over which only enmity and conquest fly. The image is hard to avoid. But that just makes it easier to resist!

And so we will when we lace up our shoes, pull on our gloves, and RUN DOWN THE WALLS, conscious of our brethren, sistren, the men all moving in the same direction with a rhythm that will push back the storm, erode the barriers between people, and move the movement a little farther down the road to revolution. I'll be with you if not in person, in presence, if not as fast more committed, as I run down walls inside them.

The Future Holds Promise

— Bill Dunne, US political prisoner

Alex Stokes

Hello, everyone. Thank you for your support. What you all are doing makes a huge difference for political prisoners and their families. The War Chest has been an invaluable resource during my incarceration! These past three years would have been incredibly difficult without your love.

Peace and respect to you.

'Do not go gentle into that good night /
Rage, rage against the dying of the light'
— Dylan Thomas

— Alex Stokes, US political prisoner

Josh Harper

I just wanted to take a quick moment to send my love and respect to everyone participating in this year's Running Down the Walls. As the fascist grip tightens on the entire planet, we need to remind those already incarcerated and everyone who may join them that we will speak their names, honor their sacrifices, and send whatever aid we can. Remember: despite this rising tide of war, repression, and ecocide—we are not beaten, our friends are not forgotten, and the struggle continues. With all of our efforts these walls may yet be brought down.

With gratitude

— Josh Harper, former US political prisoner

RUNNING DOWN THE WALLS

Since 1999, prisoners and supporters throughout North America have participated in the annual event known as Running Down the Walls (RDTW) often running or walking simultaneously in many cities and prisons at once. Many places will be hosting the 25th annual RDTW on or around Sunday, September 21st, 2025 – stay tuned to our blog for more details from all of the locations participating this year!

This is a non-competitive 5K run/jog/walk/roll to raise awareness and funds for political prisoners. Over the years, we have raised thousands of dollars and lots of awareness around the struggle to free political prisoners.

An important component of Running Down the Walls is the solidarity runs that take place throughout numerous cities. Solidarity runs that are held in our communities are designed to illustrate, through several small collective actions, that we have not forgotten our comrades locked up behind prison walls. Runs that are held in prisons are designed to both politicize other prisoners and to illustrate that the acts of solidarity have been heard.

This annual event is also one of the primary fundraisers for the ABCF Warchest Program – a fund designed to assist political prisoners who normally receive little or no financial support with monthly checks. Other funds raised should be used to support local groups of your choosing, whether that is your own organization or another group you'd like to support. The choice is yours.

To highlight the importance of these events, we will provide you with a statement from one of our imprisoned comrades concerning RDTW.

"Regardless of how one identifies politically, support for Running Down the Walls can be an important statement of solidarity in an era that finds the movement for the most equitable social reality unduly fragmented. Such support is not only recognition of the trial and tribulations suffered by the diversity of PP/POWs imprisoned for their contributions to the struggle. It is also an affirmation that the many voices recognizing those contributions and seeking justice for the prisoners are at least fellow travelers who have much more in common than at odds and share the same side of the barricade."
— Bill Dunne

We must collectively raise our voices in support of those held behind the prison walls.

We must let them know that we are here for them until they are free.

We must Run Down the Walls!

SUPPORT THE STRUGGLE

Remember that many of those arrested in the past or present are not far from us. Many of them were and are community and labor activists, queer and environmental activists people who decided to speak out against various forms of oppression and paid the price of freedom for their actions. Any one of these people could have at one time stood beside us at a demonstration, speak-out, or even an organizing meeting. At any moment it could be us who find ourselves in this situation, so we must ensure that a strong community of support exists for these people as well as ourselves. The strength of our movement is determined by how much we support our comrades.

THE WARCHEST PROGRAM

The Anarchist Black Cross Federation (ABCF) has initiated a program designed to send monthly checks to those Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War who have been receiving insufficient, little, or no financial support during their imprisonment. The Warchest program was initiated in November 1994. Its purpose is to collect monthly funds from groups and individual supporters, and send that money to Political Prisoners and Prisoners of War (PP/POW) via monthly checks. From its inception, the ABCF warchest has dispensed over $235,000 to political prisoners. Currently, there are 13 imprisoned comrades who receive a monthly stipend as part of the program; they are Abdul Azeez, Alex Stokes, Hanif Bey, Jamil Al-Amin, Jessica Reznicek, Joe-Joe Bowen, Kamau Sadiki, Peppy, Malik Smith, Marius Mason, Oso Blanco, Ronald Reed, and Xinachtli (FKA Alvaro Luna Hernandez).

Down the Walls creates social and political bonds that make visible our existence and our shared struggle in this threatening world. We are honored to run with you because “a wall is just a wall” after all, let’s run that shit down!

Juntos, Peppy & Krystal

Oso Blanco

Greetings, brothers and sisters, on this beautiful day. It’s time to push for the limits and run down the walls. I love this event, and I hope to be free one day to run alongside you all. But for now I’m praying from the inside of these ugly death camps, sending you all my energy, prayers, and words. Be strong at all times and especially today. Envision in your mind’s eye those walls being taken down forever. Remember East Berlin, Germany, where there is evidence that it can be a manifest reality. It can be real! I love you all. You all are my heart. I thank you all and love you very much. We all can make it happen.

— Oso Blanco, US political prisoner

Peppy & Krystal

Dearest Comrades,

Greetings from behind the layered walls of imprisonment, where we are captives in rebellion seeking collective liberation. We are each braving the forces of fascism, and, although we may not know all that confines you, we hear and meet your calls for freedom. May we all draw strength today from the future we are building, from the necessity of the times we are in, and from the memories of our fallen.

Our comrades in Athens once declared boldly, "The passion for freedom is stronger than their cells," and we wholeheartedly profess the same. Between the rage and sorrow of our forced separation and more importantly the separation of *vecinos* all around you, we know undoubtedly that social media posts, yard signs, and performative protests are no longer enough. We need revolutionary commitment — a refusal of debilitating despair and comfortable delusions. We need examinations of uncomfortable complexities and contradictions to resolve doubt and cast off the chains of a shallow past.

When you take to the pavement today, know that we are with you. Our liberation bound together with great love because without it, our dreams would have no meaning. Today we move with you, in motion, imagination, and spirit: great strikes against defeat! Although we have yet to abolish these prisons where pain goes to burrow, multiply, and explode, we remain hopeful because from the shadows of these margins, humans brave daring acts of subversion.

We are able to live with our losses without succumbing to misery because of your unwavering comradeship. Running

WRITE A LETTER

Writing a letter to a political prisoner or prisoner of war is a concrete way to support those imprisoned for their political struggles.

A letter is a simple way to brighten someone's day in prison by creating human interaction and communication–something prisons attempt to destroy. Beyond that, writing keeps prisoners connected to the communities and movements of which they are a part, allowing them to provide insights and stay up to date.

Writing to prisoners is not charity, as we on the outside have as much to gain from these relationships as the prisoners. Knowing the importance of letter writing is crucial. Prisons are very lonely, isolating, and disconnected places. Any sort of bridge from the outside world is greatly appreciated.

For letter writing resources visit:

nycabc.wordpress.com/write-a-letter

nycabc.wordpress.com/guide/

itsgoingdown.org/author/in-contempt

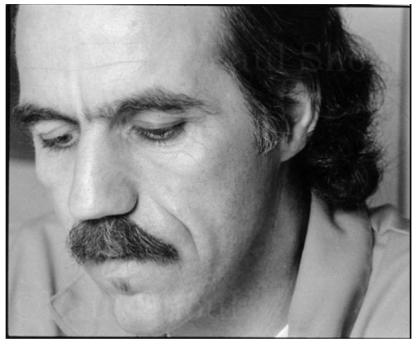
freepeppyandkrystal.noblogs.org

freeosoblanco.org/support

Ray Luc Levasseur

As a former political prisoner and recipient of mutual aid I send you greetings from unceded Wabanaki land (aka "Maine"). When Running Down the Walls first kicked off in September, 1999 I was 15 years into 20 years of imprisonment and stuck in a segregation cell. I was isolated and lonely, but I never felt alone because every day in those cages I felt the very real support of folks like you gathered here today.

Solidarity is our greatest weapon. Solidarity in resistance. Solidarity in the struggle for liberation. Solidarity moving forward. Mutual aid is an essential part of this solidarity. Mutual aid is about survival pending revolution. And not just about survival, but surviving with our humanity intact.



Each step you take today for OUR imprisoned brothers and sisters is a step in movement building that values life and freedom. I have much appreciation for your commitment. I will join you September 21 from 3,000 miles away, doing a 5K along the banks of the Passagassawakeag River (aka "the Passy").

Free Them All — Mumia Abu Jamal, Bill Dunne, Oso Blanco, Jessica Reznicek, Casey Goonan! Free Hakiym! & Free Palestine!

— Ray Luc Levasseur, former US political prisoner

Eric King

Prison abolition cannot be performative. It cannot be a fashion trend or something to gatekeep and horde. It is open arms and fists raised. It is dedication and hard, thankless effort. It can be years and decades of love and struggle, victories and heartaches. Prison abolition is a goal worth fighting for and dedicating whatever time and energy we have forward seeing the day when all those brick walls are torn down, used to build something new and beautiful.

Many things in life are not black and white, but this one is. We cannot have a free Palestine, a free Ireland, a liberated queer community, without having the prisons in our communities—along with the ones in our heads—torn to the ground.

Let's remove the guards that exist between our ears. Let's never be another person's warden or prison guard. Let's look each other in the eyes with passion and integrity and know we did everything possible to build a world worth living. That the liberation of all was just as important as our own freedom.

Love, respect, and gratidue to everyone who participates in this beautiful ceremony of solidarity and support.

To a world without cages.
Towards Liberation

— Eric King, former US political prisoner